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## CENTRAL HOWARD ASSOCIATION

the passing of which was suspended when they were placed on probation. Perfection, however desirable, is too uncommon for us to expect that it will be attained in all these cases. The large percentage, however, that have and are making good, fills us with courage for the future, and it is hoped that no one who seems deserving will be denied the benefits of probation because of the failures of others."

A. W. T.

**The Central Howard Association.**—The latest report of the Central Howard Association was issued on January 1, 1912. The object of this association is understood, perhaps, by most of the readers of this JOURNAL. It is to render first aid to men who are disabled by terms of imprisonment. This aid consists usually in finding the man or the woman a place to work and to earn wages immediately upon his or her discharge. Every year the association helps many hundreds of unfortunates and despondents. The association sends notice to all men who are about to be discharged from prison in this and neighboring states, advising them that it is prepared to receive and find jobs for them without charge, provided they communicate with the association office. Fortunately, it has only to be known that the Howard Association stands ready to do this work when generous friends coöperate and sufficient work is offered. The records of the association for the year 1911 indicate that the total number of applicants for aid during 1911 was 1,456; number sent to employment, 1,247; number of men paroled to the association, 89; per cent of men successfully fulfilling their parole, 85; reported earnings of paroled men during the year, \$37,260; number of applicants under 25 years of age, 393; number of men below sixth grade schooling, 423; number giving drink or bad company as cause of downfall, 795; number of first offenders, 887; number having trades of any kind, 592; average cost per applicant for aid and service, \$5.83; cities in which the work has been presented in 1911, 214; addresses made to and in behalf of prisoners, 642; letters written to and in behalf of prisoners, 3,340.

Superintendent F. Emory Lyon and those who coöperate with him must be heartily congratulated upon the splendid result; which can be but partially and very inadequately represented in print.

Chief Probation Officer, the Hon. John W. Houston, contributes to this report an article under the title, "Probation and the Public," in which he states the provisions of the adult probation law which went into force in Illinois on July 1, 1911. With the provision of this law, many of our readers are already familiar. A defendant who has been found guilty or who has pleaded guilty may, under this law, before sentence is pronounced, but only then, request the judge to admit him to release on probation. The power of the court in such a case is limited to first offenders, and only to certain offenses, as follows:

1. All violations of municipal ordinances where the offense is also a violation in whole or in part of a state law.
2. All misdemeanors, except as limited, the limit being a money value of \$200 where property is taken or injured. (Misdemeanors include all offenses against state laws not punishable by death or imprisonment in the penitentiary.)
3. Larceny, embezzlement and malicious mischief, under \$200.
4. Burglary under \$200 value, where the place burglarized was not a business house, dwelling or other habitation.

## POLICE DOGS: A SUMMARY

5. An attempted burglary, limited in the same way.
6. Burglary, where the burglar is found in a place other than a business house, dwelling house or other habitation.

These limitations were wisely made to prevent the misuse of the law by releasing the defendants who were guilty of greater offenses. The laws of Massachusetts and New York, on the other hand, permit probation in any case of crime or misdemeanor. Under the Illinois law the defendant may be placed on probation only under the probation officer who is appointed in accordance with the statute. As expressed by this law, the purpose of the legislature was to prevent and save defendants from the disgrace of having been in jail, not to place prisoners on probation who are already in jail. This opens up the way by which a first offender may be placed under distinct educational control by requiring him to make restitution in weekly or monthly payments to the person whom he has wronged. The sword of justice is always suspended over such a person and he knows that if he fails to live up to the conditions of his probation, he will have to suffer the penalty of the law.

One of the most helpful features of the law is its application to men who are guilty of non-support of their families. It is a tremendous injustice to the family to send such men to prison, and the law cures this injustice by empowering the court to require the defendant to pay so much per week and by empowering the probation officer to see that the money is paid and to smooth over the family differences for the general good. This system results in keeping together many a family that would otherwise be separated and it has been accompanied by good results, both in Massachusetts and in New York.

This is all very good, but after all it is absolutely impossible to realize the benefit which such a provision as our probation laws may bring about, unless the public will heartily coöperate. Employers of labor must be educated out of their prejudices against the man or the woman who has come under the hand of the law at least to the extent of showing in a practical way their willingness to give the culprit a chance. So far, Mr. Houston says, the law is working well. The probation officer has had about 140 probationers in two months' active work. While it is early to show results, he says that he knows of many cases where he is sure it will be the means of doing great and lasting good.

R. H. G.

### POLICE.

**The Use of Police Dogs: A Summary.**—1. All hunting dogs are unreliable for police work.

2. Police officers using police dogs will have more occasion to deal with female criminals in the future than in the past.

3. The common people will be most affected by the system of detection which employs the police dog. Every police officer should therefore exercise care to direct his dog in a considerate and tactful manner.

4. City criminals and professional criminals will give the police dogs most difficulty.

5. The peculiar odor of human beings is caused especially by the sebatic acid, which is contained in the perspiration.

6. The transfer of the redolent sebatic acid of the perspiration on the impression of the foot or the hand is effected directly when these parts of the body are not covered by clothing; when they are covered by clothing such as stockings, shoes or gloves,